GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3752
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2002
CONSUMER COURTS IN TAMIL NADU
SUDARSANA E.M. NATCHIAPPAN;VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government will appeal against the recent decision of the Tamil Nadu State Consumer DisputesRedressal Commission which has ruled that only lawyers can represent claimants in a consumer court;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a difference in the point of view existing in various high courts regarding the legal stand of representing of claimants in a consumer court; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a) & (b): The Order of the Tamil Nadu State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission restricting the right of audience ofan authorized representative of the litigant complainant- consumer not being an Advocate has already been stayed by the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in the Revision Petition No. 1017 of 2002. Accordingly, Government does not propose to intervene in the matter.

(c) & (d): Government is not aware about the different views exist in various High Courts in the matter. However, as informed by the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, a copy of the judgment of the Bombay High Court has been brought on record of the Commission which perhaps does not support the views taken by Tamil Nadu State Commission.